

January 26, 2021

The YWCA of Yonkers continues to be a valued multi-service center providing services to meet the needs of a growing, diverse and dynamic city. As the nation struggles with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, The YWCA of Yonkers are “boots on the ground” ever more ready to extend our services to those most in need.



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The YWCA of Yonkers utilized the Core Mission Grant to assist our agency in funding three additional staff positions. The positions included one food pantry coordinator, and two food pantry drivers/laborers. The funding was also used to purchase equipment for the Childcare/Afterschool programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the nation's unemployment rate has risen; Yonkers NY has not been exempt with an unemployment rate at 4.8% which has created an exponential need for food distribution. Prior to the pandemic, the YWCA Yonkers provided food to approximately 3000+ individuals per year, since the pandemic our distribution numbers has increased to approximately 7000+ individuals per month and we project that the number will increase to more than 10,000+ individuals per month. The pandemic has created a greater need for all-day childcare for parents of school aged children that are essential workers, as most school districts have switched to hybrid virtual learning.

The Core Mission grant enabled the YWCA of Yonkers to expand our Food Pantry and Childcare programs. We have increased food distribution from one day per week to three distribution days a week. The increased number of distribution days allows the YWCA Yonkers to reach a larger population within the City of Yonkers by affording us the opportunity to deliver to Churches, community programs, and to deliver food to those that are home bound do to underlying health conditions and in need of food. We have also provided food assistance to the City of Yonkers and New York State Department of Health by providing food services to families under COVID-19 quarantine.

The Core Mission funding also allowed us to expand our Afterschool program which traditional ran afterschool hours. The program is now a full day program with the tools and equipment to allow children to learn virtually, in a safe and socially distanced environment. The expansion of the Food Pantry and Afterschool programs have greatly benefited our most vulnerable citizens and working families in Yonkers, NY.

The YWCA of Yonkers has been dedicated to serving the community, especially those under-served for more than a century. As an agency we rely heavily on our community allies and partners to ensure that we are able to maximize the services offered to those in which we serve. With the initial Core Mission grant, the agency has not only been able to sustain, but expand two of our programs. We continue to honor our commitment to the community and in return, those that we serve are comforted in knowing that they have a reliable resource.

Charlie Knight, MSW

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Knight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Operating Officer  
YWCA Yonkers